

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace sheets 1-7 of the drawings with the attached replacement sheets 1-7. The replacement sheets incorporate the desired changes in the drawings, and each sheet includes all of the figures that appeared on the immediately prior version of that sheet.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1-7.

Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the Office action dated February 6, 2007. Prior to entry of this response, claims 1-16 were pending in the application. By way of this response, an affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131 is submitted. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Formal Matters

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required. Applicants herein submit corrected drawings.

The disclosure is objected to for omitting the serial number and filing date. Applicants correct the specification as suggested. Applicants respectfully request the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 8, and 12 are objected to for grammatical errors. Applicants herein correct claims 4, 8, and 12 as suggested. Applicants respectfully request the objections to claims 4, 8, and 12 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,834,497 (Miyoshi).

Applicants respectfully request Miyoshi be removed as a reference with respect to claims 1, 3-5, and 7. When a prior U.S. patent, U.S. patent application publication, or international application publication is not a statutory bar, a U.S.C. 102(e) rejection can be overcome by antedating the filing date of the reference by submitting an affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 or by submitting an affidavit or declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 establishing that the relevant disclosure is applicant's own work. *In re Mathews*, 408 F.2d 1393, 161 USPQ 276 (CCPA 1969). Applicants herein submit an affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131 introducing facts that establish a date of invention prior to the effective date of the

reference. Thus, Applicants overcome the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, and 7 by antedating the filing date of Miyoshi.

Next, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 16. Nevertheless, to further prosecution of this application, Applicants cancel claim 16.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,226,982 (Poggio). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi in view of official notice. Applicants respectfully request Miyoshi be removed as a reference with respect to claim 6 as discussed above. Claims 8, 10-13, and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,970,707 (Sawada). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi in view of Sawada and further in view of Poggio. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyoshi in view of Sawada and further in view of official notice.

Applicants respectfully request Miyoshi be removed as a reference with respect to claims 2, 6-15 as discussed above. Applicants herein submit an affidavit under 37 CFR 1.131 introducing facts that establish a date of invention prior to the effective date of the reference. Thus, Applicants overcome the rejection of claims 2, 6-15 by antedating the filing date of Miyoshi

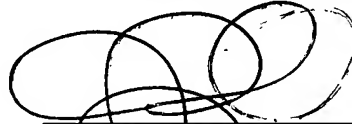
Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Response, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

ALLEMAN HALL MCCOY RUSSELL & TUTTLE LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal stroke at the bottom, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

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